RELEASE OF SUBSIDY TO STATES

*3273. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not so far released the subsidy on fertilisers to various States ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for blocking the release of this subsidy;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for released of Rs 40 to 50 crores which is due to it; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to release this subsidy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) Funds amounting to Rs. 12102.495 lakhs have so far been released to various States/UTs under the scheme of concession on fertilisers during Rabi, 1993-94. Depending on pace of utilisation of funds already released and provision of the required utilisation certificates by the State Governments, further funds will be made available to them.

(c) and (d) Andhra Pradesh has requested for release of Rs. 4050 lakhs for Rabi 1993-94. In addition to the unspent balance of Rs. 34.62 lakhs lying with the State Government from the funds released during Rabi 1992-93, Rs. 4610.93 lakhs have so far been released to them during 1993-94. Against this, the State Government have reported utilisation of Rs. 4083.08 lakhs during Kharif, 1993. More funds will be released on receipt of utilisation report from the State Government.

*Previously Unstarred Question 1973, transferred from 16th December, 1993.

PRICES/AVAILABILITY OF DAP

*3274. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that D.A.P. fertiliser is not available to the farmers at the time of sowing of various crops in the Northern States of Punjab and Haryana;

(b) whether price of DAP per bag in Government/Semi Government, IFFCO and HAFED cooperative societies in the State of Haryana is Rs. 330 whereas the price of the same bag is Rs 370 in the outlets meant by indivilual traders causing great resentment among the farming community;

(c) whether Government propose to stearmline and make uniform prices of the D.A.P.;

(d) whether Government will hold an enquiry into the non-availability of D.A.P.; and

(e) if so, the details in this regards ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) to (e) The availability of DAP in Punjab and Haryana during the current Rabi season is comfortable. There was some constraint in the availability of DAP in some pockets of Punjab and Haryana in the first fortnight of November, 1993 which was overcome by moving DAP on top priority to these two States.

As DAP is not under Statutory Price Control, variation in prices can not be ruled out. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to put any Statutory Price Control on DAP.

*Previously Unstarred Question 1877, transferred from 16th December, 1993.